UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES SITE FOR SECOND MARINE GAME FISH RESEARCH LABORATORY ON GULF OF MEXICO

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced the selection of Port Aransas, Texas, as the site for a marine game fish laboratory of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The research station, to cost an estimated \$2 million, will provide for study of marine sport fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico west of the Mississippi Delta. A construction start depends on a future Congressional appropriation.

The Port Aransas Laboratory will be the latest in a system of centers authorized by Congress in 1959 to undertake a national research program on salt-water game fish.

Secretary Udall said the goal of the laboratories is to find answers needed to maintain and improve marine game fish resources through conservation and wise management.

"Salt water fishing has become a major recreational pursuit of Americans, supporting a multi-million dollar segment of our economy," Secretary Udall said. "This new laboratory will make an important contribution by increasing knowledge of this recreational resource in the western Gulf."

The Marine game fish laboratories are operated by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Laboratories already established are at Sandy Hook, N. J.; Tiburon, Calif.; and Narragansett, R. I. The site for a fifth laboratory--at Panama City, Fla.--was announced recently by Secretary Udall.

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